NOTE XVI.

ON A NEW SQUIRREL, SCIURUS SALAE.

BY

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This beautiful squirrel is one of the recent discoveries made in Liberia by our diligent travellers, Büttikofer and Sala. It is at once distinguished from the other hitherto described species found in Africa by a broad black band, running from the neck to the tail along the middle of the back and by its tail being black on the upper parts and not ringed as in nearly all the other African squirrels.

As the fur is *soft* to the touch it finds its place among the true *Sciuri.* In external appearance it agrees with the species of a group of which I would regard *Sc. rufobrachiatus* as the type, but it differs by presenting $\frac{5}{4}$ molars and not $\frac{4}{4}$. Moreover in *Sc. rufobrachiatus* and *maculatus* the upper incisors are longitudinally grooved and this is *not* the case in our new species.

Having thus pointed out the general differences between *Sc. salae* and the other known African Squirrels and having fixed the place it is to occupy amongst them I will now give a brief description.

Agrees in size with *Sciurus rufobrachiatus* and *maculatus.* Head and body above and below, grizzled, each hair being black with one or two yellowish brown rings. Among these rings there are a few broader ones on the middle of the belly and the inside of legs, those parts thus showing a browner hue. Outside of legs colored as the back, towards the-fore and hindfeet the hairs are shorter and towards the fingers the rings disappear, the fingers being nearly black throughout in some specimens. On the middle of the back from between the shoulders the ringed hairs are for the greater part substituted by longer and wholly black hairs, which form a broad black band along the spine. This black band continues on the upperparts of the tail down to the last caudal vertebrum, the long tuft being nearly brownish throughout, in consequence of the very broad brownish rings to the hairs. Underparts of the tail present a grizzled aspect along the middle, broadly bordered with black.

Ears short, rounded, thickly covered with short black hairs, with a very small subterminal brownish ring.

Of five adult specimens, three males and two females now before me, four agree entirely with the description given above, and the fifth specimen differs by the dorsal band being more effaced and by the browner color of the underparts of the body.

Tail longer than head and body. Whiskers long, black.

Incisors not stout, with the foreside orange colored. They are not grooved. First upper molar more developed than is usually the case with this generally small tooth.

Measures of the largest specimen.

	mm.
Head and body.	270.
Tail with tuft	390.
Tail without tuft	325.
Hind foot with claws	65.
Ear.	17.
Skull	58.
Width between jugalia	34.
Length upper molar series	11.
Distance between incisor and first upper molar . .	13.
„ „ „ „ „ lower molar . .	7.

Hab. Liberia, St. Paul's River (Bavia and Soforé-Place.)

Mr. Büttikofer relates in his Journal that the natives distinguish this species very well, and give it the name »Bushcat", saying that it is not a »Squirrel". It lives in cavities of trees.

The other *Sciuri* sent over from Liberia belong to the following long known species, viz. *Sc. poensis* Smith, *leucostigma* Temm., *punctatus* Temm., *maculatus* Temm. and *temminckii*. *Sciurus temminckii* is the name I propose for the species, described by the late Temminck under the name *caniceps*: the latter name must be altered as in 1842 Gray shortly diagnosed a Squirrel from Bhotan under the name *Sciurus caniceps*. Gray's *caniceps* is prior to Temminck's *caniceps* which was described in 1853; I have taken this opportunity to rebaptize the latter in *Sc. temminckii*.